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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yasuyoshi KUWAZOE et al.

Serial No.: 09/988,957

Filed: November 19, 2001

For: DECODING APPARATUS, DECODING METHOD, DATA-  
RECEIVING APPARATUS AND DATA-RECEIVING METHOD

Group A.U.: 2184

**RECEIVED**

APR 02 2002

Technology Center 2100

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with  
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

JAY H. MAIOLI  
Reg. No. 27,213

Date  
03-07-02

March 7, 2002  
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New York, NY 10036  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure by rewriting same to read as follows:

--A decoding apparatus, decoding method, data-receiving apparatus, and a data-receiving method for performing a maximum-likelihood decoding process based on a Viterbi

a!